

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 11-21 of the specification with the following paragraph,

Figure 4 panels A, B, and C, show sequence alignment between mouse (SEQ ID NO:546) and human ICOS genomic DNA (SEQ ID NO:547). Panel A shows GAP alignment of regions flanking CDS-1 (boxed) revealed two zones of sequence homology (as shown) separated by a ~250 bp mouse-specific repetitive DNA region (SEQ ID NOS:546 and 547). Panel B shows dot plot alignment of human and mouse ICOS genomic regions including CDS-2 to CDS-5. Homologies greater than 60% identity over a 20 bp window are displayed. Panel C shows similarity plot of consensus sequence derived from GAP alignment between human and mouse ICOS genomic regions displayed in B. Breaks in similarity index indicates presence of non-conserved repetitive sequences. Aligned consensus coding sequences are indicated in top line while location of the conserved microsatellite repeat amplified by the SARA 47 primer set is denoted by an asterisk.